

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
TAMPA DIVISION

JOSEPH MCCLASH, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Case No. 8:20-cv-534-T-36AEP

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION, *et al.*,

Defendants.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**ORDER**

This cause comes before the Court upon the request by Plaintiff Joseph McClash (“McClash”), who proceeds *pro se*, for permission to access the Court’s electronic filing system and to file documents on behalf of himself and the other *pro se* plaintiffs in this action (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) (Doc. 4). Typically, parties may plead and conduct their cases either by counsel or personally, otherwise referred to as *pro se*. 28 U.S.C. 1654 (“In all courts of the United States the parties may plead and conduct their own cases personally or by counsel ...”). “The right to appear *pro se*, however, is limited to those parties conducting their own cases and does not apply to persons representing the interests of others.” *Franklin v. Garden State Life Ins.*, 462 F. App’x 928, 930 (11th Cir. 2012) (*per curiam*) (citations and internal quotation marks omitted); *see also U.S. ex rel. Stronstorff v. Blake Medical Center*, No. 8:01-CV-844-T23MSS, 2003 WL 21004734, at \*1 (M.D. Fla. Feb. 13, 2003) (“Axiomatically, a lay person is entitled to represent only himself, not any other person or entity.”) (citations omitted). Notwithstanding, given the current COVID-19 crisis, exceptional circumstances warrant the relief requested by McClash. Accordingly, McClash may submit pleadings, motions, and other

filings electronically on behalf of Plaintiffs but must follow the steps and adhere to the requirements set forth below. After consideration, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED:

1. McClash's Motion to File Electronically (Doc. 4) is GRANTED.
2. To fully access the Court's electronic filing system, Plaintiff must have the following: internet access, an e-mail account, PDF capabilities, and a PACER account.
3. Plaintiff shall register for electronic filing by visiting the CM/ECF link on the Court's website at [www.flmd.uscourts.gov/cmecf](http://www.flmd.uscourts.gov/cmecf). When filling out the request for a CM/ECF log in and password, Plaintiff is to insert 0000000 (seven zeros) when prompted to fill in a Bar number. Plaintiff may contact the Clerk's Office (813-301-5400) if assistance is needed registering for CM/ECF.
4. Once registered, McClash shall complete the CM/ECF program tutorial on the Court's website, also located at [www.flmd.uscourts.gov/cmecf](http://www.flmd.uscourts.gov/cmecf). McClash additionally shall become familiar with and follow the policies and procedures set forth in the CM/ECF Administrative Procedures for Electronic Filing, which is likewise available at [www.flmd.uscourts.gov/cmecf](http://www.flmd.uscourts.gov/cmecf).
5. In the alternative to filing electronically, Plaintiffs are permitted to mail hard copies of any filings to the Clerk of the Court instead of filing in person at the courthouse. Plaintiffs SHALL NOT telephonically contact the judges' chambers or send letters to the judges' chambers, however. In accordance with the Local Rules for the Middle District of Florida, any relief sought by Plaintiffs must be set forth in a motion or other application for an order, which shall include a concise statement of the precise relief requested, a statement of the basis for the request, and a memorandum of legal authority in support of the request, all of which Plaintiffs shall include in a single document not more than twenty-five (25) pages in length.

6. McClash may submit pleadings, motions, and any other filings on behalf of all Plaintiffs. Every pleading, motion, or other filing submitted by McClash on behalf of all Plaintiffs shall include a paragraph indicating that he conferred with Plaintiffs Joe Kane, Linda Molto, and Jane von Hahmann and that each consents to the information contained in the filing and shall further include, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746(2), the following declaration:

I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (date).

(Signature)

DONE AND ORDERED in Tampa, Florida, on this 27th day of March, 2020.

  
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ANTHONY E. PORCELLI  
United States Magistrate Judge

cc: Counsel of Record  
Plaintiffs, *pro se*